July 26, 2020
GUIDE FOR WORSHIP

Welcome
Lev Reynolds

Prelude
Merry Keller

Call to Worship

“Each day holds a surprise.
But only if we expect it can we see, hear,
or feel it when it comes to us.

Let's not be afraid to receive each day's surprise,
whether it comes to us as sorrow or as joy
It will open a new place in our hearts,
a place where we can welcome new friends
and celebrate more fully our shared humanity.

“What makes us human is not our mind but our heart,
not our ability to think but our ability to love.”

“The crisis of our prayer life is that our minds may be filled with ideas of God
while our hearts remain far from him.”
(Quotes from Henri Nouwen)

Gathering Song
“O Grant Us, God, A little Space”
Gathering Prayer
O God of all life and all love, we gather together still at a distance from one another and from you. Help us to open our hearts to your love so that we may be closer to you. Help us to open our hearts to your love so that we may be closer to all you have created good. During this time of worship in your presence may we hear clearly your word for us as we live out our days together in isolation. This we as in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Children’s Time

Scripture Reading Matthew 14: 13-27

Now when Jesus heard [of the death of John the Baptist], he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, ‘This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.’

Jesus said to them, ‘They need not go away; you give them something to eat.’ They replied, ‘We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.’ And he said, ‘Bring them here to me.’ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, ‘It is a ghost!’ And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, ‘Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.’

Message “Listen… with the ear of your heart.”

Song of Response “Dear God, Embracing Humankind" v.1,3,4 Page 4

A Time of Prayer and Reflection
The Lord’s Prayer
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kindom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kindom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Mission Moment School Supplies Judy Kamper

Blessing and Commissioning

Sending Forth Song “Father Almighty, Bless Us” Page 5
O Grant Us, God, a Little Space

1. O grant us, God, a little space from daily tasks set free.
2. Around us rolls the ceaseless tide of business, toil, and care,
3. Yet this is not the only place your presence may be found;
4. Yours are the work-place, home, and mart, the wealth of sea and land;
5. Work shall be prayer, if all be wrought as you would have it done;

We meet within this holy place and find security.
And scarcely can we turn aside for one brief hour of prayer.
On daily work you shed your grace, and blessings all around.
The worlds of science and of art are fashioned by your hand.
And prayer, by you inspired and taught, shall then with work be one.

John Ellerton's hymn, written for a noonday service in a city church, is one of the earliest to speak of science and art as part of God's creation. Thomas Este was a famous English printer and music publisher.

Tune: WINCHESTER OLD C.M.
Este's Whole Book of Psalms, 1592
Dear God, Embracing Humankind

1. Dear God, embracing humanity, forgive our foolish ways;
   Re-clothe us in our right-ful mind, in purer lives your service find, in deeper reverence, praise.

2. In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syr-ian sea,
   The gracious calling of your word, let us, like them, by spirit stirred, rise up and followers be.

3. O sab-bath rest by Gal-i-lee! O calm of hills a-
   love! There Je-sus met you prayer-ful-ly: the si-lence of et-er-ni-ty, in-ter-preted by love.

4. Drop your still dews of qui-et-ness, till all our striv-ing cease;
   Take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our or-dered lives con-fess the beau-ty of your peace.

5. Breathe through the puls-es of de-sire your cool-ness and your balm;
   Let sense be numb, let flesh re-tire; speak through the earth-quake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm.

In his poem “The Brewing of Soma,” New England poet John Greenleaf Whittier compares frenzied ecstasies of a sect of Hindu priests to the noisy Christian revivals he found so offensive. This hymn of quiet worship is from the final stanzas.

Tune: REST 8.6.8.8.6.
Frederick C. Maker, 1887
Alternate tune: REPTON (repeating last phrase)
Father Almighty, Bless Us

L. J. W., in The Sunny Side, 1875; alt.

PRAYER

Ps. 23

1 Fa - ther al - might - y, bless us with your bless - ing;
2 Christ of com - pas - sion, car - ry all who seek you
3 Moth - er of mer - cy, from your watch and keep - ing

an - swer in love your chil - dren’s sup - pli - ca - tion;
to pas - tur es green be - side the peace - ful wa - ters;
no space can part, nor hour of time re - move us;

Hear now our prayer, the spo - ken and un -
Most ten - der guide, in ways of cheer - ful
Give us your good, and save us from our

spo - ken; hear us, E - ter - nal God.
du - ty lead us, good Shep - herd.
e - vil, In - fi - nite Spir - it.

Credited to the Rev. L. J. W.—possibly the Rev. Loomis J.
Tune: INTEGRER VITAE. 11.11.11.1